

NEWS RELEASE

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Former Eastern Illinois University Student Sentenced to Prison For Mail Fraud and Aggravated Identity Theft

Urbana, Illinois— Rodger A. Heaton, United States Attorney for the Central District of Illinois, announced that Adewuyi “Eddie” Arojojoye, age 21, was sentenced yesterday, August 24, 2006, to 18 months in prison for five counts of mail fraud and three counts of aggravated identity theft. Arojojoye is required to report to prison on September 22, 2006. Chief U.S. District Judge Michael P. McCuskey also ordered that Arojojoye pay \$18,413.12 in restitution to the victims of his fraud and serve three years supervised release following his release from prison. Arojojoye was suspended from Eastern Illinois University as a result of his conviction and currently resides in Dolton, Illinois, a southern suburb of Chicago.

According to court records, Arojojoye admitted that he devised a scheme to defraud individuals who bid on items advertised for sale through online auction services. Arojojoye set up accounts with online auction services, such as E-bay, using the names and credit card numbers of persons without their authorization. He then advertised items, such as cellular telephones, for sale through E-bay even though he did not possess those items. Arojojoye then contacted the winners of the auctions and requested they send payment to him at a vacant or non-existent address in Charleston, Illinois.

Arojojoye requested payment be in the form of U.S. postal money orders in the name of one of his aliases, such as “Michael Cookes,” “Timothy Anderson,” or “Donald Webb.” Arojojoye then either went to the U.S. Post Office or met the mail carrier, falsely identified himself as his alias, and took receipt of the envelope containing the money order. Arojojoye then cashed it or sent it to others to be cashed. Arojojoye never provided the victims with the items they had paid for, and after receiving the money, canceled and changed his E-bay account and used a new alias to avoid detection and continue his scheme. The scheme defrauded approximately 28 victims of more than \$18,000.

The case was investigated by the U.S. Secret Service, the U.S. Postal Inspection Service, and the Federal Bureau of Investigation. The case was prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Eugene L. Miller in the Urbana Division of the U.S. Attorney’s Office.

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